

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A foam whose main component is a thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising as main components an ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1) a crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and a block copolymer (3), wherein said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and said block copolymer (3) are in a three-dimensional network structure in a matrix comprising said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1),
wherein said block copolymer (3) comprises a crystalline polymeric block,
wherein said foam is non-chemically crosslinked and is in a three-dimensional network structure.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a foam comprising incorporating 0.01 to 20 parts by mass of a foaming agent to 100 parts by mass of a thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising as main components an ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1), a crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and a block copolymer (3), wherein said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and said block copolymer (3) are in a three-dimensional network structure in a matrix comprising said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1) followed by foaming,

wherein said block copolymer (3) comprises a crystalline polymeric block.

Claims 14-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A foam according to Claim 11,
wherein said block copolymer (3) is a polymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer having block A at both ends and block B between said block As,
wherein said block A is a butadiene polymeric block and said block B is a conjugated diene polymeric block and/or a vinyl aromatic compound-conjugated diene random copolymeric block,
wherein said block A is present in an amount of 5 to 90 % by mass and said block B is present in an amount of 10 to 95 % by mass based on 100 % by mass as the total of said A and said B, and wherein the 1,2-vinyl group content in said block A is less than 25 % by mole and the 1,2-vinyl group content in said block B is not less than 25 % by mole,
wherein at least 80 % of all double bonds contained in said block copolymer (3) before the hydrogenation is saturated and,
wherein the number average molecular weight of said block copolymer (3) is 50,000 to 700,000.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a foam according to Claim 13, wherein said block copolymer (3) is a polymer obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer having block A at both ends and block B between said block As,
wherein said block A is a butadiene polymeric block and said block B is a conjugated diene polymeric block and/or a vinyl aromatic compound-conjugated diene random copolymeric block,
wherein said block A is present in an amount of 5 to 90 % by mass and said block B is present in an amount of 10 to 95 % by mass based on 100 % by mass as the total of said A and said B, and wherein the 1,2-vinyl group content in said block A is less than 25 % by mole and the 1,2-vinyl group content in said block B is not less than 25 % by mole,

wherein at least 80 % of all double bonds contained in said block copolymer (3) before the hydrogenation is saturated and,

wherein the number average molecular weight of said block copolymer (3) is 50,000 to 700,000.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A foam according to Claim 11, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition is non-chemically crosslinked.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer composition is non-chemically crosslinked.

Claim 27 (New): A foam according to Claim 11 comprising said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1) in an amount of 10 to 94 % by mass, said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) in an amount of 5 to 80 % by mass and a block copolymer (3) in an amount of 1 to 80 % by mass based on 100 % by mass as the total of said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1), said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and said block copolymer (3).

Claim 28 (New): A foam according to Claim 11 comprising a mineral oil-based softening agent in an amount of 200 parts by mass or less based on 100 parts by mass as the total of said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1), said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and said block copolymer (3).

Claim 29 (New): A foam according to Claim 11, wherein said foam has a highly closed cell.

Claim 30 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer composition comprises said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1) in an amount of 10 to 94 % by mass, said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) in an amount of 5 to 80 % by mass and a block copolymer (3) in an amount of 1 to 80 % by mass based on 100 % by mass as the total of said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1), said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and said block copolymer (3).

Claim 31 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer composition comprises a mineral oil-based softening agent in an amount of 200 parts by mass or less based on 100 parts by mass as the total of said ethylene- α -olefinic copolymer (1), said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) and said block copolymer (3).

Claim 32 (New): A method according to Claim 13, wherein said foaming agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of a heat degradable foaming agent, a volatile foaming agent and a hollow particle foaming agent.

Claim 33 (New): A method according to Claim 32, wherein the foaming agent is at least a heat degradable foaming agent, which is at least one selected from the group consisting of nitroso-based foaming agent, an azo-based foaming agent, a sulfohydrazide-based foaming agent, a triazine-based foaming agent, a tetrazole-based foaming agent and an inorganic foaming agent.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 5-9 and 14-22 have been canceled. Claim 11 has been amended as supported in the specification at the sentence bridging pages 17 and 18.

New Claims 27-33 have been added. Claim 27 and 30 are supported by Claim 8. Claims 28 and 31 are supported by Claim 9. Claim 29 is supported in the specification at page 18, line 11. Claim 32-33 are supported in the specification at page 19, line 8ff.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 11, 13, and 23-33 are now pending in the application.